

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are pending in the present application. Examiner John Mabry and Patent Agent Amy Odenbaugh had a series of telephonic conversations regarding the instant application on November 8, November 10, and November 30, 2010. In particular, the possibility of perfecting the priority claim was discussed as a means of obviating possible rejections related to claim 3. Applicants greatly appreciate Examiner Mabry's time and consideration for the telephonic discussions.

Applicants respectfully submit that a copy of the English translation of the priority document, Japanese Patent Application No. JP2004-023338, is being filed herewith, together with a statement signed by Dr. Akira Shimoda that indicates that the English translation submitted herewith is a true and accurate translation of a certified copy of JP2004-023338. Consequently, applicants respectfully submit that they have perfected their claim to priority to Japanese Patent Application No. JP2004-02338, which was filed January 30, 2004.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

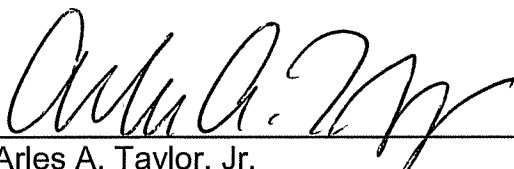
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account Number 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures